MARVEL® COMICS

SPIDER-MAN

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UNTOLD TALES of SPIDER-MAN®

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Bitten by a radioactive spider, high school student **Peter Parker** gained the spider's powers, and soon became the costumed crimefighter the entire world would one day come to know as **Spider-Man!** In the early days of his career, when his amazing powers were still new to him, the teenaged Spider-Man struggled to learn about himself and his abilities, while trying to lead a **normal life!** It would **not** be easy...

STAN LEE PROUDLY PRESENTS...

UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN!

WITHOUT WARNING

A GIRL I KNEW -- A FRIEND OF MINE --

-- DIED TODAY.

MAYBE I'M RISKING COMPROMISING MY SECRET IDENTITY BY TELLING YOU ABOUT THIS, BUT RIGHT NOW --

-- RIGHT NOW I JUST DON'T CARE.

"AS IT MUST, TO EVERYONE"

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"HER NAME WAS **SALLY AVRIL** -- BUT YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD OF HER AS **BLUEBIRD.**

"SHE'D ONLY RECENTLY TAKEN UP BEING A SUPER HERO, AND WHILE SHE'D HAD A SUCCESS OR TWO --

ONE AT A **TIME,** GUYS, ONE AT A **TIME!**

WHAK

BEHIND YOU, BLUEBIRD!

I KNOW YOU WANT TO MAKE THE **NEWSPAPERS,** BUT REALLY -- THE **OBITS?**

KLUD

Uhh!

I'LL GET TO YOU ALL -- I **PROMISE!**

SPIDEY! HOW NICE OF YOU TO **DROP IN!**

"-- SHE WAS DOING IT FOR ALL THE **WRONG REASONS.**"

YEAH, YEAH -- SO WHAT'S THE **OCCASION?** OR ARE YOU JUST PICKING FIGHTS FOR FUN THESE DAYS?

I WAS **SPYING,** THAT'S WHAT!

AND I GOT **GOOD STUFF,** TOO! THE **BLACK KNIGHT** IS HIRING MUSCLE FOR A JOB, AND I WAS LISTENING IN!

UNFORTUNATELY, THEY **SPOTTED** ME --

-- AND, WELL, THAT'S WHERE THE **FUN** STARTED!

THE ***BLACK KNIGHT?*** YOU'RE TANGLING WITH SOME PRETTY ***DANGEROUS*** PEOPLE HERE, B.B.!

A FEW ***GYMNASTICS TRICKS*** MIGHT KEEP YOU AHEAD OF A ***THUG*** OR ***THREE,*** BUT...

AW, QUIT TRYING TO HOG ***ALL*** THE HEADLINES, SPIDEY -- I'LL BE ***FINE!*** AFTER ALL, EVERY TIME I'VE GOTTEN INTO TROUBLE, ***YOU'VE*** SAVED MY BUTT --

-- SO NO ***PROBLEM,*** RIGHT?

Huh? I...

...Huh?!

"I COULDN'T ***BELIEVE*** IT. MY TRYING TO SEE THAT SHE DIDN'T GET HURT WAS MAKING HER THINK SHE WAS ***INVULNERABLE***...

"...THAT SHE COULD DO ANYTHING SHE WANTED AND HER ***GUARDIAN ANGEL*** WOULD PROTECT HER! SO WHEN I SAW SHE'D LEFT HERSELF ***WIDE OPEN***...

"...WELL, MUCH AS I ***WANTED*** TO..

GHULKK--!

"...I DIDN'T ***DO*** ANYTHING."

WHKUDD

"I MOPPED UP THE REST OF THE GOONS WHILE SHE TRIED TO GET HER ***BREATH*** BACK --

WHAKK

-huhh-

-huhh-

"-- AND WHEN THE LAST GUY WAS ***DOWN*** --"

YOU... YOU COULD'VE ***STOPPED*** THAT GUY...!

NOT IF I WASN'T ***HERE.*** AND I ***WON'T*** BE -- NOT ALWAYS.

GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT, BLUEBIRD. THIS IS NO ***GAME*** -- IT'S *LIFE* AND *DEATH*. AND YOU JUST GOT A TASTE OF THE ***REAL STAKES.***

YOU'RE RISKING YOUR ***LIFE*** EVERY TIME YOU PUT THAT MASK ON. SO UNLESS YOU'RE WILLING TO ***LOSE*** THAT LIFE...

OKAY, ***OKAY.*** I GET IT. YOU'VE ***CONVINCED*** ME.

I WANT TO BE FAMOUS, BUT NOT ***THAT*** BAD. I QUIT, OKAY?

GEEZ, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO ***HARSH*** ABOUT IT.

IF IT'LL GET YOU TO QUIT, THEN YES, I ***DO.*** NOW TELL ME WHAT'S UP WITH THE ***BLACK KNIGHT.***

Oh, GREAT. RUB IT ***IN,*** ALREADY...

"IF I'D ONLY ***KNOWN***... I COULD HAVE OFFERED TO ***TRAIN*** HER OR SOMETHING. BUT I JUST THOUGHT... I THOUGHT SHE'D JUST ***STOP***...

"ANYWAY, WHEN I SAW HER THE NEXT DAY..."

PETER PARKER! DEMON ***NEWS PHOTOG*** AND ***STRAIGHT-A*** STUDENT! HOW'S IT GOING -- GET ANY GOOD ***SPIDEY*** PIX LATELY?

Huh? SALLY? ARE YOU ***OKAY?***

ACES, KID, ACES, WHY ***WOULDN'T*** I BE?

WELL, I HEARD... I MEAN, uh...

I GUESS YOUR BUDDY SPIDER-MAN FILLED YOU IN ABOUT MY ***"RETIREMENT"***, Huh? WELL, IT'S NICE OF YOU TO ***WORRY*** -- BUT REALLY, I'M FINE.

AND I'VE ALREADY GOT ***NEW PLANS,*** TOO --

-- SO WATCH YOUR ***BACK,*** PARKER...

Huh?

"I DIDN'T ***GET*** IT.

"IF I'D ONLY ***KNOWN.*** IF I'D ONLY SEEN IT ***COMING.***

"BUT I ***DIDN'T.***"

"AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED ***NEXT.***

"***EMIL STRAGOSZ***, THE ARCHDUKE OF ***KSAVIA,*** ARRIVED WITH HIS DAUGHTER ***ELENA*** FOR A MEETING WITH THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL.

"IT WAS A ***BIG DEAL*** -- FIRST TIME A KSAVIAN RULER'D LEFT ITS BORDERS SINCE WORLD WAR II. THEY HAD ***DIPLOMATS, HONOR GUARDS, LIMOUSINES...***

HO, ARCHDUKE --

DIPL

-- A ***MOMENT*** OF YOUR ***TIME!***

"...AND Oh YEAH, THE ***BLACK KNIGHT.***"

<***GAS!*** GET TO THE ***CAR,*** ELENA --

<-- YOU'LL BE ***>KOFF KOFF<*** SAFE THERE!>

PSSSSSSSSSS

<F-FATHER!?

MY PARALYZER PISTOL SAYS ***NOT,*** ARCHDUKE. ***SEIZE*** HER!

<FATHER!?

"IT WAS ***PANDEMONIUM.*** THE GAS EVERYWHERE, PEOPLE PANICKING, SHOUTING -- EXACTLY WHAT THE KNIGHT ***WANTED.***

"I... TOOK CARE OF A THING OR TWO...

"... AND..."

HEY! HEY, ***CAN-HEAD!***

LEMME GUESS... YOU TOOK A WRONG TURN AT ***CAMELOT,*** RIGHT?

HUh? ***SPIDER-MAN?!***

NEVER MIND ***HIM,*** MEN! JUST CONCENTRATE ON YOUR ***ASSIGNED TASKS*** --

-- AND LEAVE SPIDER-MAN TO ***ME!***

BRATT TATT ATTATT

WHOA, NELLIE!

IS THAT AN ***AUTHENTIC MEDIEVAL. 45-CALIBER FULLY-AUTOMATIC LANCE?*** ***Huh?***

CAN I *BORROW* IT, Huh? JUST FOR A *SEC*, OKAY?

BRATTTAT

I'LL BE REAL *CAREFUL* WITH IT, I PROMISE!

"I DON'T *KNOW* HOW MUCH YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BLACK KNIGHT -- BUT AFTER TALKING TO BLUEBIRD, I READ UP ON HIM.

"HE WAS A SCIENTIST -- *NATHAN GARRETT* -- A WELL RESPECTED ONE, TOO, UNTIL GIANT-MAN CAUGHT HIM SELLING U.S. SECRETS TO *FOREIGN POWERS*.

WHANG

"IT DIDN'T *WORK* -- BUT HE DID MANAGE TO ESCAPE FROM GIANT-MAN. I DIDN'T PLAN FOR HIM TO GET AWAY FROM *ME*...

"HE JUMPED *BAIL* AND FLED THE COUNTRY -- AND WHIPPED UP ALL HIS *GADGETS* AND THAT *WINGED HORSE*, JUST TO GET REVENGE ON GIANT-MAN.

"... BUT I HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS *COMING*.

FASTER, JASON, *FASTER!* IF I MISS THIS --!

GIMME A *BREAK*, SALLY! HOW WAS *I* TO KNOW WE'D GET CAUGHT IN TRAFFIC?

I DON'T *CARE!*

BUT IF I CAN'T BE A *SUPER HERO*, I'LL BE A PHOTOGRAPHER LIKE PARKER!

PRESS

"MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT THE LIMELIGHT, BUT I *DO!* AND ONCE I GET THIS *SCOOP*, I'LL BE ABLE TO WRITE MY OWN TICKET!

NOW, COME ON -- *MOVE!*

SALLY, THE LIGHT'S *RED*...

SO? THE BLACK KNIGHT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE U.N. *FIVE MINUTES* AGO!

NOW DO WHAT I *TELL* YOU AND *FLOOR* --

HONK

-- Uh --

WHA --?

SALLY!

WHAMMASH!!

NO

SALLY!

NO NO NO

SALLY?

HAH!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S *DISTRACTED* YOU, SPIDER-MAN --

"ALL I COULD THINK WAS THAT IF SHE'D BEEN IN COSTUME -- IF SHE'D BEEN WITH *ME* -- SHE'D STILL BE ALIVE. AND THEN --"

BZZTT

-- BUT YOU'VE LEFT YOURSELF AN EASY TARGET FOR MY **STUN RAY!**

"-- AND THEN I DIDN'T THINK *ANYTHING* FOR A WHILE.

"BY THE TIME I *WOKE UP*, IT WAS OVER.

"ALL *OVER.*

"SHE'LL NEVER *LAUGH* AGAIN.

"SHE'LL NEVER TOSS HER HEAD THE WAY SHE DID, INSTANTLY DISMISSING WHATEVER SHE DIDN'T WANT TO *THINK ABOUT* IN FAVOR OF SOMETHING *NEW* --

"SHE'LL NEVER *SMILE* --

" -- NEVER CAPTURE EVERYONE'S ATTENTION WITH A *FEW WORDS* --

" -- NEVER LIGHT UP A ROOM WITH HER *DETERMINATION* AND *HUMOR*. SHE COULD BE OBNOXIOUS -- EVEN *PUSHY* --

" -- BUT SHE WAS *VITAL* AND *ALIVE*, AND FUN TO BE AROUND --

" -- AND NOW SHE'S *GONE* --

FOREVER.

"AND ALL BECAUSE I --

PETER? THAT NICE *Mr. JAMESON* PHONED -- HE WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU GOT ANY PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE *EVENT* THIS AFTERNOON.

PHOTOS?

NO. NO, I *DIDN'T*.

I CAN'T MAKE *MONEY* OFF OF -- OF --

PETER, I KNOW YOU'RE FEELING BLUE ABOUT THAT GIRL, AND MAYBE WORRYING A LITTLE TOO -- AFTER ALL, IT COULD HAPPEN TO ANYONE.

IT'S A *DANGEROUS* WORLD OUT THERE, AND A BODY CAN'T *HELP* BUT WORRY -- I WORRY EVERY TIME YOU SET FOOT OUT OF THE *HOUSE*.

BUT YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY *TOO* MUCH, PETER.

YOU'RE A SENSIBLE BOY -- A *RESPONSIBLE* BOY, AND THAT'S WHAT --

YEAH, AUNT MAY...

I'M **RESPONSIBLE,** ALL RIGHT.

ASHES TO **ASHES**... DUST TO **DUST**...

...SENSELESS, **SENSELESS** *TRAGEDY*...

...*FLOWER OF HER YOUTH*...

...BOY WHO DID IT... ONLY A MILD CONCUSSION...

...DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A **LICENSE**...

...ON PROBATION, I HEAR...

...PARENTS KEEPING HIM OUT OF **SCHOOL**... SEEING A CHILD **PSYCHOLOGIST**...

PSYCHOLOGIST! WHAT'S TO ***KNOW?***... RECKLESS, WILD KID...

PETER, I JUST WANTED TO ***SAY***... WHEN SHE CAME BY THE BUGLE THAT TIME, AND I THOUGHT SHE WAS ***FLIRTING*** WITH YOU --

-- I'M SORRY I WAS MEAN ABOUT IT...

IT'S OKAY, BETTY. IT DOESN'T MATTER. NOT ANYMORE.

COME ON, LETS --

Huh?

-- WCBS NEWSBREAK! THE BLACK KNIGHT, WHO DAYS AGO KIDNAPPED PRINCESS ELENA STRAGOSZ OF KSAVIA, ELUDED POLICE PURSUIT TODAY --

-- AND HAS BARRICADED HIMSELF IN THE TOP FLOORS OF THE CHRYSLER BUILDING, BLOCKING ELEVATORS AND STAIRWELLS --

-- AND HOLDING BACK POLICE COPTERS WITH DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY BLASTS --

BETTY, I'VE GOT TO GO. I SHOULD GET DOWN THERE, AND --

Oh, SO FAMOUS PHOTOGRAPHER PETER PARKER'S GOT TO RUN OFF AND PLAY HERO, Eh?

THINK YOU'RE PRETTY BIG WITH YOUR CAMERA AND YOUR PRESS CARD, Huh?

"IT WAS LIKE SOME BIZARRE FAIRY TALE, SOME CHILDREN'S STORY GONE WRONG.

"THE EVIL BLACK KNIGHT -- HE'D KIDNAPPED THE PRINCESS AND TRAPPED HER IN A DARK FORBIDDING TOWER --

WELL, JASON TOLD US ABOUT SALLY BEING BLUEBIRD --

FLASH!

-- AND SHE'S THE HERO HERE, PARKER! NOT YOU!

NEVER YOU!

FLASH, WHAT A THING TO SAY! PETER DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS!

HE'S UPSET, PETER. DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO --

NO, LIZ --

-- I KNOW JUST HOW HE FEELS.

"-- AND HERE CAME *PRINCE CHARMING* TO SAVE HER.

"*RAH RAH* FOR PRINCE CHARMING.

"*RAH RAH* FOR THE PRINCE. BIG *HERO.*"

<Eh? WHO IS --?>

"I GOT THE *GIRL* OUT. IT DIDN'T TAKE *LONG.*"

-- SO, BARON, I THINK I'VE DEMONSTRATED THE *SKILL* AND *STATURE* --

-- TO MERIT AT LEAST A CAPTAINCY IN YOUR LITTLE BAND, IF NOT --

"THAT'S WHEN I FOUND OUT HE WAS JUST DOING THIS TO PROVE TO SOME *BIGGER* CLOWN WHAT A HOTSHOT *BAD GUY* HE WAS."

LOOKING TO PAD YOUR RESUME SOME *MORE,* KNIGHT?!

WELL HECK, I MAY NOT BE A *HELPLESS TEENAGE GIRL* --

WHOW

SPIDER-MAN!

"IT'S JUST TOO BAD THAT WHILE *RAPUNZEL* WAS GETTING KIDNAPPED, PRINCE CHARMING WANTED TO HOG THE GLORY *HIMSELF* --

"-- SO HE LET *SNOW WHITE* GET FLATTENED BY A *DOWNTOWN BUS.*

"I GOT KINDA *STEAMED* --

-- BUT I'M WILLING TO GIVE YOU ANOTHER CRACK AT ME!

DEAL WITH THIS, GARRETT. I WILL CONTACT YOU LATER.

I --

BARON, I ***ASSURE*** YOU I CAN --

WHUD

KRAT

KRAM

" -- AND DEALING WITH HIS ***MEN*** DIDN'T TAKE MUCH LONGER THAN GETTING THE GIRL TO ***SAFETY*** -- "

HE'S NOT ***LISTENING***, KNIGHT. THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO ***IMPRESS***. YOUR HOSTAGE IS ***GONE*** --

-- AND I'M GONNA TEAR THAT ***CHEESY ARMOR*** OFF YOU, BIT BY STINKING ***BIT!***

" -- AND ***PRETTY SOON*** -- "

I --

I --

" -- IT WAS JUST HIM AND ME."

HEY, WHERE YOU ***GOING***, TOUGH GUY?

A BIG, BAD VILLAIN OF ***YOUR*** SKILL AND STATURE?

WHOK

MAYBE YOU'D RATHER PICK A FIGHT DOWN AT THE *PETTING ZOO?*

WHKOOM

OR THE *CONVENT SCHOOL* -- I HEAR THEY'RE TURNIN' 'EM OUT PRETTY *TOUGH* DOWN THERE.

SILENCE!

I SHALL BROOK NO MORE OF YOUR *DISRESPECTFUL PRATTLE!*

"DISRESPECTFUL PRATTLE?" SAY, YOU THINK *THIS* IS ROUGH, WAIT'LL I START IN WITH THE *SARCASM* AND *IRONY!* OR BETTER YET --

-- MAYBE I'LL JUST USE MY *FISTS!*

YOU'RE *INSANE!*

BUT MY *BOLA-BALLS* WILL STOP YOU!

NOPE! TRY AGAIN!

MY *TITANIUM-STEEL "WRAPPER,"* THEN!

NOPE *TWICE!* LET ME SPELL IT *OUT* FOR YOU, SIR FLEES-A-LOT!

CHOOM CHOOM-YOOM

YOUR *BOLA-BALLS* WON'T HELP.

YOUR *"WRAPPER"* WON'T HELP.

YOUR *FANCY-SCHMANCY LANCE* WON'T HELP.

NONE OF YOUR GADGETS AND GIMMICKS AND GIZMOS WILL HELP.

NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL NEED TO SEE YOUR ***LICENSE*** AND ***REGISTRATION*** --

-- SO I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO ***STEP OFF*** THE ***HORSE!***

WHOOSH

OHH!

FALLING -- !

YOU ***FOOL*** -- YOU'VE KILLED US ***BOTH!***

RELAX, YOU MEDIEVAL MISCREANT --

THWIPP

AAAAAAAA

-- I'M NOT *DONE* WITH YOU YET!

THUNGGG

SALLY'S *DEAD!* AND YOU DON'T EVEN *KNOW,* DO YOU?!

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW!

YOU

DON'T

EVEN

WHA --?

WAK

KRAK

KLUD

KDAM

BRAK

"AND THAT'S WHEN *YOU* SHOWED UP."

WHOA, *EASE UP,* SPIDEY!

YOU BEAT HIM! IT'S *OVER!* YOU CAN *STOP* NOW!

I -- WHAT? THE *HUMAN TORCH?*

BREAKAWAY

Huh?

Oh, GREAT -- THE *WALL!*

"I THOUGHT FOR A SECOND IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN YOU WHO BROUGHT DOWN THE WALL...

"...BUT THE BLACK KNIGHT WAS ***GONE***, AND HE WASN'T IN ANY CONDITION TO WALK AWAY BY ***HIMSELF***.

"IT MUST HAVE BEEN WHOEVER HE WAS TALKING TO ON THAT ***VIDEO SCREEN***, CARRYING HIM OFF TO BE ***HEAD JERK*** OF THE ***JERK SQUAD*** --

"-- OR MAYBE JUST A ***RUN-OF-THE-MILL JERK***, IF LOSING THE PRINCESS ***DEMOTED*** HIM.

"BUT ANYWAY --

KRSH

HI, TORCH. FANCY MEETING YOU HERE.

-- ONE ***DEAD GIRL***, ONE ***IDIOT*** IN RED-AND-BLUE TIGHTS, AND THE BAD GUY GOT ***AWAY***. A RED-LETTER ***DAY***, Huh?

I'D OFFER YOU AN ***HORS D'OEUVRE*** BUT IT SEEMS I'M FRESH OUT!

"-- THAT'S THE WHOLE ***STORY*** --"

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE ***KNIGHT***. HE'LL GET HIS -- THEY ALWAYS ***DO***. BESIDES --

-- IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE KNIGHT IS THE GUY YOU'RE REALLY ***MAD*** AT...

IT'S ALL MY ***FAULT***, TORCH. IF I HADN'T STOPPED HER FROM BEING ***BLUEBIRD***...

...SHE MIGHT HAVE DIED FIGHTING THE ***BLACK KNIGHT***, OR FALLEN OFF A ***ROOF***, OR GOTTEN KILLED IN A ***ALLEY*** --

-- LIKE SHE WOULD HAVE IF YOU HADN'T COME ALONG IN THE FIRST PLACE.

LOOK, I'M NOT SAYING YOU'RE NOT A FIRST-CLASS PAIN IN THE BUTT -- BUT YOU CAN'T BEAT YOURSELF UP OVER THIS, SPIDER-MAN.

BUT I --

YOU STOPPED HER FROM DOING SOMETHING ***DANGEROUS***. THAT'S ALL. SHE CHOSE TO DO ***SOMETHING ELSE*** DANGEROUS, BUT THAT'S ***NOT*** YOUR FAULT.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU'VE GOT TO TELL YOURSELF THIS: YOU ***SAVED*** SOMEONE. YOU ***HELPED***. YOU MADE A ***DIFFERENCE***.

SOME ***DIFFERENCE***.

YOU WANT TO ASK ***EMIL*** AND ***ELENA STRAGOSZ*** IF YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE?

NO, I ***GOT*** IT. YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU'RE RIGHT.

OKAY. SEE YOU ***AROUND***, THEN.

YEAH, TORCH, YOU'RE ***RIGHT***. EVERYTHING YOU SAID IS ***TRUE***. IT'S JUST...

...IT'S JUST GOING TO TAKE ME A LONG TIME TO ***BELIEVE*** IT, THAT'S ALL...

THE END